



The Old Ironsides Report



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2nd ACR Troops Help Raise Village Living Standards

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The story of the village of El Hamidiya is one of friendship and cooperation between Iraqi's, coalition and NGO's. El Hamidiya is a small village to the north of Sadr City that was founded in 1958. Approximately 750 families who are predominantly Shia inhabit the village. Both Fox Troop and Hawk Company from 2d Squadron, 2d Armored Cavalry Regiment have engaged the locals and their leadership in order to improve conditions in this outlying village. The coalition has been interfacing with Mr. Jabbar, a village elder and an Iraqi who is focused on improving the living conditions for the children and adults in his village.

Mr. Jabbar was extremely helpful in helping the coalition to identify the concerns of the villagers. The top four concerns of the villagers are fresh drinking water, education, medical care and road improvements. Through collaboration with the villagers, a German NGO called Komite Cap Anamur, and Coalition Forces all of these issues are currently being addressed, in addition to some ancillary projects.

The Coalition has attacked the lack of potable drinking water by contracting water trucks to deliver fresh water to the area and delivers up to 450 cases of bottled water at a time. There have also been humanitarian ration deliveries to the village to assist in augmenting the villager's rations. The coalition is currently working with a contractor to assess the possibility of repairing the village's water pump and distribution center, a project that will provide fresh water throughout the village.



Having the troops of 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment in the village causes the children to smile, laugh and mug for the camera. The 2nd ACR is helping promote the quality of life for the village's 750 families.

Komite Cap Anamur has provided the funds and resources necessary to renovate and equip a village building as a clinic, replacing the village's former clinic, an old trailer. This German NGO has also started structural repair to the village's school in order to prepare for the new school year.

The 203d Engineer Battalion is repairing, grading and graveling the three major roads in the village as the unit responsible for the road improvement. This Missouri Army National Guard unit is doing a tremendous job increasing the trafficability of the roads in the village, directly contributing to improving El Hamidiya's quality of life.

One of the ancillary projects under development is a brand new, lighted and fenced football field for the children of the village. The coalition provided funds to the village to purchase 20 footballs, uniforms and other equipment for the village's three football teams. Games are expected to begin in the near future.

The situation in the village of El Hamidiya has improved dramatically over the past three months through cooperation between the Coalition, Non-governmental Organizations and Iraqi people. Through continued cooperation the quality of life in this small village can only improve, and the children can continue to smile.



2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment troops help with a water delivery to the small village of El Hamidiya.

News

Rumsfeld: Iraq Guerrillas Threat to U.S.

TOKYO (AP) - Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld said Friday that guerrillas in Iraq have remained a deadly threat to the technologically superior Americans by studying the way U.S. troops fight. The final test, he said, will be, "Who's going to outlast the other?" "The remnants of the regime are going to school on us," Rumsfeld told reporters while flying to Tokyo on a six-day Asian trip. After U.S. tactical changes, "They watch what takes place, and then they make adjustments," he said of the shadowy Iraqi opposition.

Moussaoui Loses Right to Represent Self

ALXANDRIA, Va. (AP) - A federal judge Friday revoked the right of al-Qaida defendant Zacarias Moussaoui to represent himself in the only case arising from the Sept. 11 attacks. U.S. District Judge Leonie Brinkema said Moussaoui's latest motions "include contemptuous language that would never be tolerated from an attorney and will no longer be tolerated from this defendant."

Muhammad Jury Starts Its Deliberations

VIRGINIA BEACH, Va. (AP) - Jurors in the murder trial of sniper suspect John Allen Muhammad began deliberations Friday but went home for the weekend after meeting for about four hours. The jury sent one question to Prince William Circuit Judge LeRoy F. Millette Jr., asking if they could have a tape recorder to review evidence on a 911 tape. Millette granted the request, but a tape player could not be found by the time the jury went home at 1 p.m.

Sports

Federer Defeats Ferrero at Masters Cup

HOUSTON (AP) - Wimbledon champion Roger Federer overwhelmed French Open champion Juan Carlos Ferrero 6-3, 6-1 Friday at the Tennis Masters Cup to give himself a chance of finishing the season ranked No. 2. Federer broke early in the first set and three times in the second, including in the final game. Federer earned his third match point with a fantastic cross-court backhand passing shot on the run, then won it when Ferrero put a backhand in the net.

Safety Tip

Injuries stemming from the use of stoves and heaters are preventable if the correct safety measures are taken.

- Only properly trained soldiers should be permitted to set up, light, refuel, and maintain stoves.
- A fireguard should be posted anytime a stove or heater is being used.
- Horseplay should be prohibited inside the shelter.

Oddly Enough

Singapore to Celebrate World Toilet Day

SINGAPORE (AP) -- Pop the lid on the cleanser, get out the scrub brush and be sure to leave the seat down - it's time to get ready for World Toilet Day. The Singapore-based World Toilet Organization has begun collecting tips to improve bathroom etiquette to mark the day, held annually on Nov. 16. The suggestions will be used to create the agenda for next year's World Toilet Summit in Beijing, the group said in a statement Friday. "If everyone joins in, there (will be) better public toilets and happier people," said Jack Sim, a founding member of the World Toilet Organization and president of the Restroom Association of Singapore. Suggestions already posted on the group's Web site include: teach children to aim, wipe the toilet seat after use and praise owners of well-kept toilets. Tips can be sent to info@worldtoilet.org. The toilet group is encouraging the public to speak out about the toilets they use. "Be it brickbats or bouquets, give feedback to the owner of the toilet," the group's statement said. The next World Toilet Summit, which brings together academics, sanitation experts, toilet designers and environmentalists from around the world, will be held on Nov. 19, 2004 in Beijing. Issues discussed at this year's meeting in Taipei, Taiwan included mountain toilets, trends in rural toilets and the impact of toilets on tourists' impressions of a country.

This Day in History

1864 : The March to the Sea begins

Union General William T. Sherman begins his expedition across Georgia by torching the industrial section of Atlanta and pulling away from his supply lines. For the next six weeks, Sherman's army destroyed most of Georgia before capturing the Confederate seaport of Savannah, Georgia. Sherman captured Atlanta in early September after a long summer campaign. He recognized that he was vulnerable in the city, however, as his supply lines stretched all the way from Nashville, Tennessee. Confederate raiders such as Nathan Bedford Forrest threatened to cut his lines, and Sherman had to commit thousands of troops to protect the railroads and rivers that carried provisions for his massive army. Sherman split his army, keeping 60,000 men and sending the rest back to Nashville with General George Thomas to deal with the remnants of General John Bell Hood's Army of Tennessee, the force Sherman had defeated to take Atlanta. After hearing that President Lincoln had won reelection on November 8, Sherman ordered 2,500 light wagons loaded with supplies. Doctors checked each soldier for illness or injuries, and those who were deemed unfit were sent to Nashville. Sherman wrote to his general in chief, Ulysses S. Grant, that if he could march through Georgia it would be "proof positive that the North can prevail." He told Grant that he would not send couriers back, but to "trust the Richmond papers to keep you well advised." Sherman loaded the surplus supplies on trains and shipped them back to Nashville. On November 15, the army began to move, burning the industrial section of Atlanta before they left. One witness reported "immense and raging fires lighting up whole heavens ... huge waves of fire roll up into the sky; presently the skeleton of great warehouses stand out in relief against sheets of roaring, blazing, furious flames." Sherman's famous destruction of Georgia had begun.

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